

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/522,344
Reply to Office Action dated January 31, 2008

Remarks:

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated January 31, 2008. Claims 3 and 7-10 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 11-15 are currently pending. Reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

In the Office Action, a Restriction Requirement was placed upon the application. The Office Action indicated that the application contained six (6) different species, namely:

Species I – Figures 2a, 2b;
Species II – Figures 3a, 3b;
Species III – Figures 4a, 4b;
Species IV – Figure 7;
Species V – Figure 8; and
Species VI – Figure 9.

In addition, Applicants were also required to elect a single sub-Species for the resilient members between:

Sub-Species I – Figure 5; and
Sub-Species II – Figure 6.

The Action indicated that the Species did not relate to a single general inventive concept as they lack the same or corresponding technical features. Applicants also note that the Office Action indicated that claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 11-15 are generic.

Applicants hereby elect Species V, shown in Figure 7. Moreover, Applicants elect Sub-Species II, of Figure 6. Applicants assert that at least claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 11-15 read on the

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elected Species and Sub-Species. Applicants make the election of Species IV and Sub-Species II without traverse. Claims 3 and 7-10 have now been withdrawn.

A speedy and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated:

3/26/08

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